

PROJECT DIVERSE PERSONNEL PREPARATION GRANT
College of Education
Missouri State University
Springfield, Missouri

Project DIVERSE

Missouri State University is pleased to introduce Project DIVERSE, a federally funded personnel preparation grant. The purpose of Project DIVERSE is to increase the number of professionals working in the field of visual impairments. This federal grant will provide financial support for a total of 32 individuals who desire a dual certification in Teaching the Visually Impaired and/or Orientation and Mobility (O&M).

Project Description

Project DIVERSE consists of a 33-credit-hour dual certification program leading to certification in Visual Impairment and Orientation and Mobility. The Visual Impairment certification program is accredited by the Association for the Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER). The O&M program was developed in accord with AER standards to ensure that program completers are eligible to take the examination offered by the Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP). Upon passing the examination, an Orientation and Mobility Specialist will earn the COMS designation signifying that he or she is a Certified Orientation and Mobility Specialist.

Delivery Method

Eight courses are offered through the Missouri State University Online Program. Three additional courses, SPE 512: Instructional Techniques and Strategies of Orientation and Mobility, SPE 591: Practicum in Visual Impairment and SPE 591: Internship in Orientation and Mobility are offered at an onsite location(s) determined by the geographic needs of the majority of participants.

Funding Support

Federal funding is available to provide assistance with tuition, books, and approved additional expenses. To qualify for funding, applicants must meet admissions criteria and agree to complete a 2-year service obligation with a Local Education Agency (LEA) in the field of Visual Impairment and/or Orientation and Mobility for each year of federal funding.

Required Courses

SPE 505: Braille Reading and Writing I (3)
SPE 506: Principles of Orientation and Mobility (3)
SPE 507: Introduction to Visual Impairments, Autism, and Severe/Multiple Disabilities (3)
SPE 508: Low Vision, Anatomy and Physiology of the Eye (3)
SPE 509: Methods of Teaching Students with Visual Impairments and Multiple Disabilities (3)
SPE 511: Braille Reading and Writing II (3)
SPE 512: Instructional Techniques and Strategies of Orientation and Mobility (6)
SPE 514: Professional Issues and Assessment in Orientation and Mobility with Diverse Populations (3)
SPE 591: Practicum in Visual Impairment (3)
SPE 591: Internship in Orientation and Mobility (3)

For More Information

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